

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6-7 and 10-12 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 3, 6-7 and 10 are independent. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included herein. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 6-7 and 10-12 include allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Specifically, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 7 to include the elements of its independent base claim 1, has amended claim 6 to include the elements of its independent claim 1 and intervening claim 5, and has amended claim 10 to include the elements of its independent claim 9. As the Examiner has indicated that these claims include allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, as amended, are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 10-12 asserting that it is unclear at what structure defined in the claim provide the function of sliding the first and second table. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 10 to recite that the table "is slid along a first ball screw by rotating the first ball screw, ..." Based on these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that there is sufficient structure recited in the claims to provide the function of sliding the first and second table. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29,271

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant